

## **Claims**

The claims are amended as follows:

16-24. (Canceled)

35. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a compression unit to generate encoded data by dividing an input image into a plurality of divided regions and perform a compression process for each of the divided regions;

a first setting unit to set one or a plurality of aspect ratios and/or one or a plurality of sizes corresponding to a display unit of an external device;

a second setting unit to set one or a plurality of image regions within the input image, having at least one of at least one aspect ratio and at least one size set by the first setting unit, and to set boundaries of the divided regions subject to the compression process of the compression unit so as to match boundaries of the image regions;

a storage to store the encoded data generated by the compression unit; and

an expansion unit to expand the encoded data stored in the storage.

36. (New) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the second setting unit sets an image region that is set by the second setting unit as a Region Of Interest (ROI) of the compression process of the compression unit.

37. (New) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 35, further comprising:

a communication unit to communicate with the external device;

a third setting unit to set at least one of an aspect ratio and a size according to information that specifies the at least one of at least one aspect ratio and size and is received from the external device, which requests the specified aspect ratio or size, by the communication unit;

a fourth setting unit to set an image region having the at least one aspect ratio and size set by the third setting unit; and

a conversion unit to convert the encoded data of the image stored in the storage into converted encoded data made up of codes corresponding to the image regions set by the fourth

setting unit, and to transmit the converted encoded data, via the communication unit, to the external device that requests the specified at least one aspect ratio and size.

38. (New) An electronic camera comprising:

an imaging unit to pick up an image; and

an image processing apparatus comprising:

a compression unit to generate encoded data by dividing an input image into a plurality of divided regions and perform a compression process for each of the divided regions;

a first setting unit to set one or a plurality of aspect ratios and/or one or a plurality of sizes corresponding to a display unit of an external device;

a second setting unit to set one or a plurality of image regions within the input image, having at least one of aspect ratio and at least one size set by the first setting unit, and to set boundaries of the divided regions subject to the compression process of the compression unit so as to match boundaries of the image regions;

a storage to store the encoded data generated by the compression unit; and

an expansion unit to expand the encoded data stored in the storage, wherein the compression unit of the image processing apparatus carries out the compression process with respect to an input image that is picked up by the imaging unit.

39. (New) The electronic camera as claimed in claim 38, wherein the second setting unit sets an image region that is set by the second setting unit as a Region Of Interest (ROI) of the compression process of the compression unit.

40. (New) An image processing method comprising:

(a) generating encoded data by dividing an input image into a plurality of divided regions and performing a compression process for each of the divided regions;

(b) setting at least one of at least one aspect ratios and at least one size corresponding to a display unit of an external device;

(c) setting at least one image region within the input image, having at least one of at least one aspect ratios and at least one size set by (b), and setting boundaries of the divided regions subject to the compression process of the compression unit so as to match boundaries of the image regions;

- (d) storing the generated encoded data in a storage; and
- (e) expanding the encoded data stored in the storage.

41. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 40, wherein setting at least one image region sets an image region as a Region Of Interest (ROI) of the compression process.

42. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 40, further comprising:

- (f) communicating with the external device by a communication unit;
- (g) setting at least one of an aspect ratio and a size according to information that specifies the at least one aspect ratio and size and is received from the external device, which requests the specified aspect ratio and size, by communicating with the external device;
- (h) setting an image region having the at least one aspect ratio and size that is set; and
- (i) converting the encoded data of the image stored in the storage into converted encoded data made up of codes corresponding to the set image regions, and transmitting the converted encoded data, via the communication unit, to the external device that requests the specified at least one aspect ratio and size.